

Dockets management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5639 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

3422 '99 MAY -5 AIO:36  
Re: Docket #98N-10338, "Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food"

To whom it may concern:

The Food and Drug Administration has an obligation to retain the clear and permanent labeling of all irradiated foods. Because irradiation is a "material fact" as pronounced by the FDA in it's initial petition, this fact needs to be prominently displayed upon any irradiated food product. Why are you advocating selling irradiated food without some written or symbolic indication?

It is commonly known that irradiation kills bacteria that give off the foul, warning smells of spoilt meat but does not harm botulism. It is also a fact that, after being irradiated, aflatoxins in grains flourish. Irradiation reduces vitamin and mineral contents in fresh fruits and vegetables. How can irradiated produce be called "fresh" when it has undergone a technological process?

As a mother, it is my right to know which foods have been treated by irradiation and which have not. It is my right to choose between food products that have been irradiated and those that have not. It is your duty as public servants to maintain clear, precise and prominent labels on America's food supply.

Last year the Food and Drug Administration received overwhelming opposition to labeling irradiated food as "organic." Because of the enormity of the outcry, the FDA abandoned that plan. Now the FDA proposes selling irradiated food without any distinguishing label at all. It is the same unethical plan in a new package.

For whom is the FDA working? It must be clear to you that Americans do care about their freedom to choose between irradiated and non-irradiated foods. The FDA must uphold the will of the people and continue open, honest labeling laws with no hint of expiration.

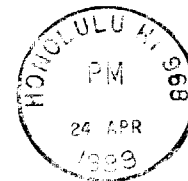
Sincerely,

*Diana Sanchez*  
177 Manulele St.  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

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Diana Sanchez  
177 Manulele St.  
Hilo, Hawai'i  
96720



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